CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1. A turbo decoding system, comprising:
 a decoder module, using an adaptive abort criterion to halt iteration;
 wherein the adaptive abort criterion is executed without variable division.
- 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the abort criterion is based on the mean and variance of partially decoded extrinsics.
- 3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the abort criterion is based on a ratio of the mean and variance of partially decoded extrinsics.
- 4. An iterative decoder system, comprising:
 - a decoder module, wherein estimates of data symbols are generated through an iterative decoding process;
 - a comparison algorithm for comparing a derived quality attribute of the generated data symbol estimates to a predetermined threshold; wherein the comparison algorithm is executed without variable division; and wherein decoding is aborted based on the comparison result.
- 5. The system of Claim 4, wherein the quality attribute is based on the mean and variance of the estimates of data symbols.
- 6. The system of Claim 4, wherein the quality attribute is based on a ratio of the mean and variance of the estimates of data symbols.

- 7. The system of Claim 4, wherein the quality attribute is generated without variable division.
- 8. A method for determining an abort criterion in iterative decoding comprising the steps of:

generating estimates of data symbols; generating a quality attribute based on the estimates; comparing the quality attribute to a predetermined threshold; aborting the turbo decoding based on the comparison result; wherein the quality attribute is generated without division functions.

- 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the quality attribute is based on the mean and variance of the estimates of data symbols.
- 10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of comparing is implemented without division functions.
- 11. A method for determining an abort criterion in iterative decoding, comprising the steps of:
 - (a.) generating estimates of data symbols after an iteration substep;
 - (b.) measuring the mean of the estimates;
 - (c.) measuring the variance of the estimates;
 - (d.) generating a quality attribute based on the mean and the variance;
 - (e.) comparing the quality attribute to a predetermined threshold; and
 - (f.) aborting the turbo decoding based on the comparison result;
 - wherein steps (b), (c), (d), and (e) are implemented without division functions.

- 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the quality attribute is based on a ratio of the mean and the variance of the estimates.
- 13. An iterative decoder system for a recursive systematic encoder, comprising: a decoder module, wherein estimates of data symbols are generated through an iterative decoding process;
 - a comparison algorithm for comparing a quality attribute of the generated data symbol estimates to a predetermined threshold;
 - wherein the quality attribute is based on the mean and the variance of the estimates;
 - wherein decoding is aborted based on the result of said comparison; and wherein the mean and variance for the estimates and the comparison algorithm are implemented without division functions.
- 14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the quality attribute is based on a ratio of the mean and variance of the estimates.